

Radio Reports, Inc.

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(EXCERPT)

Fulton Lewis Jr. at 7:00 P.M. over WGMS (Washington) and
MBS Network:

"The last minute scramble continues in Congress tonight, and I mean far into the night, with wrangles and tangles and arguments, causing delay after delay until it begins to look quite uncertain frankly whether they will be able to get through by Saturday...

"Then they got into a big discussion about a ten million dollar appropriation for the U. S. Information Agency, the USIA, to build a powerful radio transmitter that will reach out behind the Iron Curtain to get to the people of Russia as a solution for the Russian broadcasts and propaganda, which is all very fine, except that we already have the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe, which claim that they are doing a superb and stupendously effective job of reaching those very people already, and they both claim a listening audience upwards of a hundred million people.

"Their signals are being constantly jammed by the Russians. Why it would be supposed that the signals of this new ten million dollar station wouldn't be jammed, I don't know. When I challenged those claims of Radio Free Europe, and Voice of America, over the air, by the way, those two organizations rise up and in righteous indignation, horrified indignation, say that they have mail from behind the curtain to prove their listening audience figures and that I don't know what I'm talking about.

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"It has to be one or the other. Here is the same Voice of America, coming to Congress with a plan, and saying now that it must not have ten--that was the reduced figure that was under consideration--what they told Congress was that they have to have 23 and a half million dollars to build new transmitters so that they can compete with the Russians. It all sounds very contradictory to me."